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Message Text

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73
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20

PC-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /105 W
---------- 113781
O 050030Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2329
INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1250

E.O. 1152: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GT
SUBJECT: ELECTION REPORT NO. 10

1. POLITECNICA DIRECTOR COL. ABUNDIO MALDONADO TELEPHONED EMBASSY AT 5:00 PM MARCH 4 TO TELL US THAT HE HAD LEARNED AT LAUGERUD HEADQUARTERS THAT GOVERNMENT CURRENTLY PLANNED MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AT 7:00 PM LOCAL TIME GIVING FOLLOWING VOTE COUNT WHICH THEY WILL CLAIM TO HAVE COMPILED AS OF 4:15 PM: OFFICIAL COALITION, 242,631; DCG, 207,704; PR 126,249; VOID BALLOTS, 62,360. MALDONADO SAID GOVERNMENT, WITH THESE STILL PARTIAL FIGURES WOULD CLAIM LAGUERUD VICTORY.

2. MALDONADO SAID GOVERNMENT, IN ITS ANNOUNCEMENT, ALSO PLANNED TO CHARGE GROSS FRAUD IN COUNTING OF PRESIDENTIAL VOTES FOR GUATEMALA CITY IN THE MUNICIPAL PALACE, SPECIFICALLY CHARGING THAT MAYOR COLOM ARGUETA HAD MANIPULATED THIS COUNT.

COMMENT: IF GOVERNMENT MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT AS MAY BE CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED, IT WILL BE HARD FOR PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND RIOS SUPPORTERS IN PARTICULAR TO SWALLOW, GIVEN THE LONG DELAY (NOTHING SINCE CONFIDENTIAL

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8:30 THIS MORNING) IN MAKING RESULTS PUBLIC, THE

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SUSPICION AROUSED BY THIS DELAY, THE FACT THAT RIOS HAS CLAIMED VASTLY DIFFERENT FIGURES, AND THAT MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE RIOS HAS WON A STRONG VICTORY. THIS TACTIC, IF IMPLEMENTED, COULD WELL LEAD TO DEMONSTRATIONS BY RIOS SUPPORTERS AND CONFRONTATION WITH COALITION SUPPORTERS AND GOG SECURITY FORCES. KEY QUESTION IN GOVERNMENT'S EVENTUAL DECISION TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AS PLANNED OR NOT MAY WELL BE REACTION OF MILITARY TO THIS PLAN. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT MALDONADO'S REPORT IS REASONABLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF PLAN AT THE GIVEN MOMENT, BUT WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT SURE THAT IT WILL ACTUALLY BE CARRIED OUT. MANY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS ARE OBVIOUSLY DESPERATE FACED BY COALTION DEFEAT AND THINKING OF MANY WAYS TO REACT. WE CONTINUE HOPEFUL THAT A CALMER DECISION WILL PREVAIL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review Event:
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